

May 19, 1975

CLERK: Mr. President, the first one is LB 453. There are E & R amendments.

SENATOR MILLS: Mr. President, I move the adoption of the E & R amendments to LB 453.

PRESIDENT: Discussion? All those in favor say aye, contrary say nay. The E & R amendments are adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Now, Mr. President, there are amendments offered by Senator Mills. It's a computer print-out offered by Senator Mills.

SENATOR MILLS: Mr. President, members of the body. This amendment would do somewhat similar to what Senator George had to do earlier in the session with a bill. It would provide an auxiliary method for voter registration similar to some other states in the United States. It would allow registration of farmers, clerks, other people that are tied up during court house hours. It would simply be done by procuring the restoration document from the clerk, taking it to people or groups and having them register. It would be certified by a notary public, taken back to the county clerk by the person or persons and registered there. It's really no different, it's just a different way for people to register. It would be helpful for people that perhaps have moved from one area to another in old age, or rest homes, this type of thing. Mr. President, I ask you and the members of this body to adopt this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Mills had discussed this amendment with me. It's a voter registration procedure that's almost identical to the one used in the State of South Dakota; where a form turned in, authorized by a notary public, would be counted as a valid voter registration. In the Government Committee, which I've been on, we've looked at different mechanisms of voter registration, particularly to help elderly and handicapped people get registered. I think a lot of people feel there are a lot of deficiencies with Nebraska's current system. This system ... I've talked to some people who have worked in South Dakota with voter registration. It's a good system, it's fairly easy to operate. I think it's a worthwhile amendment he's brought in. This bill has to be adopted this year. If we want to change voter registration law we have to do it this year. I suggest that we follow Senator Mills' suggestion here.

PRESIDENT: Senator George.

SENATOR GEORGE: Mr. President, question of Senator Mills. Senator Mills, as you know I do support the concept because I introduced the bill which goes along similar lines as you mentioned. There is only possibly one problem. Maybe you can answer that. When the notary public certifies this registration, does he or she know where that person lives in terms of district within the county, in terms of township, in terms of fire district, in terms of school district, in terms of drainage district? This is the problem that we have